AMAZON BASIN PROJECT

Terms of Reference - Regional Monitoring Group

Consolidation and Operation of Regional Surface Water Quality And Quantity Monitoring

August 26, 2026

ACTO
Amazon Cooperation Treaty Organization

AmazonBasin
SAP IMPLEMENTATION

UN environment
United Nations Environment Programme

gef

TERMS OF REFERENCE

REGIONAL MONITORING GROUP

FOR THE CONSOLIDATION AND OPERATION OF REGIONAL SURFACE WATER QUALITY AND QUANTITY MONITORING

WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTO STRATEGIC ACTION PROGRAM

FINAL DOCUMENT AGREED AMONG THE MEMBERS OF THE REGIONAL GROUP ON AUGUST 26, 2026

I. Background and Justification

Within the Framework of the Implementation of the ACTO Strategic Action Program, it is planned to consolidate an Integrated Platform for Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) based on the operation of two Networks and two Water Resources Monitoring Programs in the Amazon Region/Basin, which were conceptualized by the MCs since 2018 within the scope of the Amazon Project - Phase 1 and ratified in the implementation of the SAP.

The Conceptual Framework for the Operation of an Integrated Platform for Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) in the Amazon Basin/Region proposes a methodological structure based on organizational processes. Its objective is to consolidate a regional water quality and quantity monitoring system based on the institutional experiences of the ACTO Member Countries. The Integrated Platform includes seven main processes, each with specific activities and products that feed the development of models, scenarios, indicators and regional products that will make it possible to know the state of the environment of the region/basin as a system. This cyclical and progressive approach will make it possible to generate aggregated information and indicators for decision-making, with the active participation of the Regional Monitoring Group, which will be made up of the institutions/services/agencies specialized in Hydrological and Water Quality monitoring of the member countries.

The Amazonian Network for Water Assessment (ANWA) establishes a permanent institutional space for dialogue, coordination and cooperation among the National Water Authorities of the Amazon countries. Its institutional structure seeks to strengthen IWRM in the region. Among its objectives are the harmonization of protocols, the exchange of experiences, the search for financing and coordination with other strategic actors, such as universities and local communities.

While the Platform organizes and operationalizes the technical and methodological work for the generation of useful and comparable information, ANWA provides the institutional and political framework to validate, plan and coordinate actions around the information generated by the Platform. The interaction between both will make it possible to move toward more integrated water governance in the region, where informed decisions based on science and technical evidence to generate recommendations for actions at the regional level. This joint work scheme reinforces the implementation of the SAP, aligning technical capacities and political will.

In this context, the creation of a Regional Monitoring Group made up of Hydrological and Water Quality Institutes/Agencies/Services is strategic. This group will facilitate technical coordination among the responsible institutions, the consolidation of the water quality and quantity monitoring networks, the exchange of experience, and capacity building to advance in the implementation of

the Monitoring Protocols of the Water Quality Network and the Amazon Hydrological Network adopted by ANWA of ACTO in 2025.

II. Objective of the Regional Monitoring Group

The main objective of the Regional Monitoring Group is to function as a specialized high-level technical-scientific subsidiary body for the consolidation of Regional Monitoring within the framework of the Integrated Platform for Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) in the Amazon Basin/Region, which includes the consolidation and operation of the Water Quality Network and the Amazon Hydrological Network.

III. Purpose of the Regional Monitoring Group

To have timely, systematic and continuous technical coordination for the adequate consolidation and implementation of Regional Monitoring in the Amazon Basin/Region, through communications via official channels, email, virtual and/or in-person meetings and other means of communication.

IV. Members of the Regional Group

The Regional Group will be made up of the following representatives of each Member Country officially nominated by the MCs.

- Principal and Alternate of the Amazon Hydrometric Network.
- Principal and Alternate of the Amazon Surface Water Quality Network.
- Principal and Alternates of those responsible for Networks and Databases of the hydrometric services.

V. Accompaniment

The MCs will designate a representative of their Ministries of Foreign Affairs for the accompaniment and follow-up of the progress of the monitoring group.

VI. On the work dynamics of the Group

The group will meet ordinarily at least twice a year and extraordinarily as many times as necessary to fulfill the agreed objectives and actions.

At the end of each meeting, a “Record of Agreements” will be prepared, whose format will be provided by the Permanent Secretariat. The Record of Agreements will have the purpose of following up on the progress and fulfillment of the objectives.

The moderation of each meeting will be the responsibility of a country that will be chosen at each meeting by consensus or else by alphabetical order.

Roles of the Moderating Country

- Participate in the preparation processes for each meeting with the support of the ACTO Secretariat/RCU.
- Support the convening of the Group meetings.
- Carry out the moderation of each meeting.
- Present the work agenda and the results of the previous meetings.

Roles of the PS/ACTO/RCU/ORA

- Support the Moderating Country in the preparation, development and conclusion of the meetings.
- Prepare the technical documents necessary for each meeting.

VII. Procedures

Convenings for follow-up meetings on key activities.

The convenings for the coordination meetings will be made by means of a Note Verbale 10 days in advance. ACTO/RCU will resend the official note by email to the Principals and Alternates of the Group.

VIII. Actions of the Regional Group for the consolidation and operation of ACTO's integrated IWRM platform

1. Consolidation and operation of the Amazon Hydrological Network and participation in the Macro Process for water quantity monitoring.

- Effective participation in the consolidation process of the Hydrometric Network of the Amazon region. This network will be consolidated based on the experiences accumulated by the MCs.
- Define which are the enabling activities, both regional and bilateral (ACTO - MC), to achieve an effective and continuous exchange of data and information to keep the regional hydrometric network operational.
- Agree on the Formats for sharing information that allow standardized integration into the ORA platform.
- Overcoming the existing national and regional gaps to achieve the implementation of the regional protocols.
- The national actions aimed at the effective implementation of the regional protocols.
- Participate in training activities and share the experience in Satellite monitoring at the national level.
- Contributions to the processes and annual reports on supply vs. demand and reference values for precipitation and discharge.

2. Consolidation and operation of the Water Quality Network

- Effective participation in the consolidation process of the Water Quality Network of the Amazon region. This network will be consolidated based on the experiences accumulated by the MCs.
- Enabling activities, both regional and bilateral (ACTO - MC), to achieve an effective and continuous exchange of data and information to keep the regional water quality network operational.
- Contribute to the identification of the existing gaps to achieve the implementation of the regional protocols.
- Support the implementation of national actions aimed at the effective implementation of the regional protocols.

- Participate in training activities and share the experience in Satellite monitoring at the national level.
- Coordinate, plan and participate in regional monitoring campaigns.
- Contributions to the processes and annual reports on variability, mass balances, quality indices and temporal trends.

3. **Facilitate and streamline the Process of laboratory intercomparison.**

- Facilitate intercomparison rounds, harmonization of analytical methodologies and promote joint certifications or establish an approach to regional certification or a possible future accreditation.
- Progress on laboratory validations and certification.
- Promote the implementation and application of ISO 17025 in each MC.
- Establish the first steps to build the project for a regional laboratory within the framework of ACTO.

4. **Participate in the pilot project Process**
   - Identify critical areas for the design of technical projects (for example, new sampling methodologies or sensors) and assess their regional replicability.
   - Promote the generation of pilot projects that make it possible to strengthen hydrological and water quality monitoring at the regional level.

5. **Lead and contribute to the regional report on the environmental status of the Amazon region.**

- The reports will be in a format agreed among the members of the group and disseminated through available means and that is accessible to the ACTO MCs.

6. **Participate in the dialogue with ANWA, for the presentation of the products and results of Regional Monitoring.**

7. **Improve Cooperation in shared basins, boundary rivers, bilateral trilateral**